



Podcast Discussion Guide for Instructional Staff



Orange County
Public Schools

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EPISODE 003

Topic: [Unleashing Young Readers \(https://bit.ly/35YJyJw\)](https://bit.ly/35YJyJw)

Guests: Caitlin Chacon & Kellee Moye, Hunter's Creek Middle

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- We all know that reading is fundamental, but Caitlin and Kellee both said sometimes reading is seen as more punishment than pleasure for struggling readers. How do you feel about that in the context of our school? What are some ideas you have to protect and nurture the joy of reading in our students?
- Independent reading is crucial... do you think our school offers students enough of it?
- Are there some cross-curricular ways we could nurture independent reading – perhaps coming up with a suggested list of fiction books that have a science/art/math elements or theme?
- Graphic novels – yea or nay?
- There are over 400 ELLs at Hunter's Creek Middle, and these teachers talked about how amazing their ESOL Coordinator is. Ours is too (shout out to that staffer!), but what are some ways we could work better together across the school to support these students?
- Vocabulary is important across all of our classrooms, and flash cards have been around for decades. Those are pretty old school, but these teachers also talked about gamification of learning. What are some of the best tools you use to expand your student's vocabulary – and let's brainstorm what other classrooms might benefit from trying it?
- Did you watch the video of Caitlin requiring a flash card answer before a student is allowed to enter the classroom? What is something simple you could do in the first few seconds of seeing a student that would resonate in this way?
- The partnership between Kellee, who teaches advanced reading, and Caitlin who teaches intensive reading, is symbiotic, benefitting both the teachers and their students. Are any of you informally partnering like that? What could partnerships like that across all subject matters in our school look like?

- Book Clubs: if your school has one, compare it to what Kellee described. If not, discuss whether Kellee’s blueprint of grouping books into sets and having club members develop discussion questions and annotate with Post-It Notes would work at your school.
- Kellee’s classroom (see video) had a wide variety of seating choices, some at desks, others on balls or the floor and still others standing. The research they cited says this can increase focus and collaboration between students, and while it’s most common in elementary schools, it can work with older students, too. Who here has tried flexible seating and what are the pros and cons?
- Students are actually who convinced Kellee to try flexible seating. What’s something you would be comfortable putting to your students to decide about your classroom?
- John Wright asked the teachers about the “school without walls” idea, what could we do more here to go beyond our walls?
- What’s your favorite book/current read?

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